

Women's Extravagance— One Woman's Extravagance.

Dorothy Dix in News & Observer. Printed by request.

The extravagance of women has long been the scapegoat on which many a man's failure in business is laid. Recently this ancient libel has received a new impetus from the statement of a writer in a magazine who says that, according to the warden of the Joliet penitentiary, 67 per cent. of the inmates of that institution are there because of the greed of their wives, and that millinery bills ruined more men than whiskey.

The testimony of a felon may be taken with some degree of allowance, but it has always seemed to come dead easy to men who went astray, to lay the blame of their misdeeds upon women, and to shelter themselves behind a petticoat. Adam set the precedent at the first opportunity that came his way, and "the woman thou gavest me, she did it," has been the nearly excuse offered thousands of times since by the weak and the erring.

Whether the Joliet man was led to make these bitter remarks about women's intemperance in the millinery line just after getting the bill of his wife's hat, or in anticipation of the one for an Easter bonnet, no one knows, but the idea will be as indignantly repudiated by men as by women. The majority of married men will bear willing testimony to the fact that their wives are the more prudent of the two, and in many cases the brake on the domestic machinery.

No one will deny that some men have been ruined by the extravagance of their wives, but such instances are exceptional. Indeed, one might well claim that a man so weak that he would commit forgery, or embezzlement, to gratify the vanity of a woman has so little backbone that he was bound to collapse anyway. All he wanted was a chance to go wrong, and he was sure to find it. And he's the kind of man who would naturally lay the blame on his wife.

That many women spend far more than they can afford; that men are harassed by heavy bills for domestic expenses and embarrassed by overdue accounts for millinery, is also true, but the fault is not altogether, or mostly, because of women's wilful extravagance. Indeed, wives have no more just cause or complaint against their husbands than in not being treated fairly and with candor about such matters, for when husbands fail and business ends in disaster, it is the women who suffer most. The majority of American husbands tell their wives absolutely nothing of their business affairs. The woman does not have any knowledge of what they really can afford, or that they can afford less some years than others. In many households she seldom handles any money. She buys on a bill, which is paid with more or less grumbling, which in time she becomes to believe is a necessary part of the transaction. How, under such circumstances, is it possible for her to have any way to gauge her expenditure, or, unless she has a miraculous revelation, to know anything about financing?

Nothing has died a more lingering death than the theory that the feminine intellect is incapable of understanding anything about business or money. Women do not know much, it is true, but it is because they have had no opportunity to learn. It has been part of the system of misplaced kindness of fathers and husbands to keep the women of their families in profound ignorance of all such matters, and the result has been when women did come into any money they were the victims of the relative or guardian who handled it for them. The prosperity of the French nation is built up largely on the fact that the wife of the bourgeoisie is his business partner. Our domestic system has no greater weakness than the fact that the American woman is profoundly ignorant of her husband's business affairs, and has no part in their management. The American woman comes of a race of shrewd business men, and it is absurd to say she cannot understand a simple business proposition. Let her husband explain why they can afford only so much for living expenses, and nine times out of ten, yes, ninety-nine out of a hundred, the wife will willingly acquiesce in the arrangement. In most cases her love for him will prompt her to save him the worry of bills he cannot meet. If it does not her good sense and conservatism will teach her that disaster and ruin can only be averted by prudence. The man who makes a confidant of his wife, and in whose affairs she is the consulted silent partner, is not the man who is ruined by millinery bills, or one of those who go to the penitentiary on account of a woman's extravagance.

Somewhat we seem to have a sort of false delicacy in talking about money. The young man who is in love with a girl and wants to marry her, seldom has the honesty to tell her just what she will have to adopt if she casts her lot with him. On the contrary, he speaks in glittering generalities. He is so anxious to appear well in her eyes that he often spends far more than he can afford. In their courtship

days he lavishes sweets, and candy, and books, and theater tickets on her, and she naturally argues from these that they are to live in a kind of fairyland, where everything comes with the wishing. Perhaps she desires a swell wedding. He groans at the thought of what it will cost, and that he must go in debt for carriages and souvenirs for bride-maids, and a thousand incidental expenses, but he lacks the courage to say to her frankly that he can't afford it, and that he will not do it. This does the girl the greatest injustice. Suppose that instead of starting life with a splendor beyond their means, and that is bound, sooner or later, to end in bankruptcy, the man should tell the girl honestly just how matters were—that she was marrying a poor man and would have to economize, to wear made-over frocks perhaps, and do with a maid-of-all-work until he had time to carve out a fortune for them? Don't you know she would respect him more and love him better? It is possible she would not have the courage or the love to make such a sacrifice. Then, surely, a man missing such a wife might be like Beatrice in heaven, daily on his knees, thanking it for his escape. But the true-hearted, lucky, loyal American girl would not refuse such a partnership. She isn't built that way. She may be relied on to do her part if she is given a chance.

No man has a right to complain that he cannot help his wife's extravagance, or that it tempted him to steal. It is a contemptible confession of weakness. The vainest, the most frivolous, the shallowest woman who ever lived will respect the man more and love him better for refusing to let her ruin his prospects in life. Deep down in every woman's heart is a demand that the man she loves shall be stronger than she is, and have some sort of principle that he will not sacrifice to her whims and caprices—no, not even for love of her. "I could not love thee, dear, so much, loved thou not honor more," is her unconscious motto, and the man who fails to check the recklessness of an extravagant wife, has the poor satisfaction for his comfort that she despises him for his weakness.

For every life that is wrecked by the extravagance of a wife, and for every man who goes to the penitentiary because of millinery bills, there are thousands who owe their success to some woman whose prudence and conservatism is the balance wheel that keeps the domestic machine in working order. Men who set up no false pretenses with their wives, who tell them fairly and honestly what they can afford, seldom have cause to complain of their extravagance. The path of matrimony does not lead to the penitentiary, and the way of the defaulters is not paved with millinery bills, or embellished with Easter bonnets. The average business man saves more money after marriage than before, and it tends less on his wife's hat bills.

With women extravagance is generally a sin committed through ignorance. The woman who has money of her own is far more apt to live within her income than a man. The average business man is pretty safe to have a little nest egg laid by in the savings bank against a rainy day, and it would do this on a salary on which a man would think it almost impossible to save up even a penny. A woman who would spend as much on a purely personal indulgence as a man does on cigars in a year would be regarded as a monster of extravagance, and a warning to her sex.

No one would set up the absurd claim that women are invariably judicious in their expenditures, or always administer their household affairs wisely and economically, but it is claimed that they do not willfully ruin their husbands by their greed, or love of luxury. The American wife has faults, but she is courageous, loving, loyal and willing to do her part in bearing the burdens of life, and when he is accused of spending 67 per cent. or any other appreciable per cent. of his income to the penitentiary because of her millinery bills, she indignantly denies the accusation.

Women as Well as Men Are Made Miserable by Kidney Trouble.

Kidney trouble preys upon the mind, discourages and lessens ambition; beauty, vigor and cheerfulness soon disappear when the kidneys are out of order or diseased. Kidney trouble has become so prevalent that it is not uncommon for a child to be born afflicted with weak kidneys. If the child urinates too often, if the urine scalds the flesh or if, when the child reaches an age when it should be able to control the passage, it is yet afflicted with bed-wetting, depend upon it, the cause of the difficulty is kidney trouble, and the first step should be towards the treatment of these important organs. This unpleasant trouble is due to a diseased condition of the kidneys and bladder and not to a habit as most people suppose.

Women as well as men are made miserable with kidney and bladder trouble, and both need the same great remedy. The mild and the immediate effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It is sold by druggists, in fifty-cent and one dollar sizes. You may have a sample bottle by mail free, also pamphlet telling how Swamp-Root is sold all about it, including many of the thousands of testimonial letters received from sufferers cured. In writing Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., be sure and mention this paper.

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Story of Terrapin's Memory.

Baltimore Sun.
That Br'er Terrapin has memory is proved by a story told by Young D. Hance, who owns the birthplace of Chief Justice Taney, on Battle creek, in Calvert county.

Mr. Hance keeps a small boat under a mulberry tree on the shore of the creek, and on going to the boat early one morning he noticed a dry land terrapin busily engaged in eating a few mulberries which had fallen. Mr. Hance, wishing to assist Br'er Terrapin in getting his breakfast, gathered some mulberries and pitched them to him one at a time. In a very short time the terrapin began to catch the berries in his mouth exactly as they were thrown to him. Every day afterward a slight knock on the side of the boat would bring the terrapin out for his mulberries, and Mr. Hance often took his friends and visitors to see his pet.

On one occasion a fresh young man drew a piece of tobacco to the terrapin instead of a mulberry. Br'er Terrapin retired at once in disgust, and for days afterward refused to come when called. Although Mr. Hance finally induced him to come again for his mulberries, Br'er Terrapin remembered the tobacco and would never approach unless Mr. Hance was alone.

SICKENING, SHIVERING FITS
Of Ague and Malaria can be relieved and cured with Electric Bitters. This pure, tonic medicine; of special service in malaria, for it exerts a true curative influence on the disease, driving it entirely out of the system. It is much to be preferred to quinine, having none of this drug's bad after-effects. E. S. Munday of Henrietta, Texas, writes: "My brother was very low with malarial fever and jaundice, till he took Electric Bitters, which saved his life." At E. T. Whitehead & Co., drug store; price 50c, guaranteed.

Corn in the South.

Southern Farm Magazine.
The aggregate production of corn in the South for the last two years has been 1,300,000,000 bushels, against 908,000,000 bushels for the two preceding years, or a total increase in the last two years of nearly 400,000,000 bushels. The total value of the corn crop of the last two years has been \$720,000,000, against \$566,000,000 for the two preceding years, or a difference in favor of the last two years of \$156,000,000 added to the wealth of the South by the increase in corn alone, which would in itself largely offset in its final effect on the Southern situation, the decline in cotton.

THE OLD TIME WAY.

Our Grandmothers gave us powders and teas because they knew nothing of modern medicine and methods. In this age of progress and discovery, nicely coated, compressed tablets are fast superseding the old time powders and teas. Rydals' Liver Tablets are compressed chocolate coated tablets, easy to swallow, pleasant in effect, always reliable. They contain ingredients that cannot be used in powders or teas. Ingredients that have an effect upon the liver that is never obtained from the so-called liver powders etc. A trial will prove their merits.

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It was on the Bovey that the restaurants and lodging houses were thrown open to the shivering and hungry people in the streets of New York on Wednesday night not on Fifth Avenue.—Kansas City Times.

MR. KIRKSEY'S RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. Kirksey writes:—I give a positive guarantee with every box of Rydals' Stomach Tablets and Liver Tablets I sell, and have never been asked to refund the money in a single instance. I have used these tablets in my family with best results. W. L. Kirksey, Morganton, N. C. Rydals' Tablets are prepared by the Radical Remedy Company, Hickory, N. C. who authorize every dealer in their preparations to guarantee every box or bottle of their medicine they sell.

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"Two things make my wife awful mad."
"What are they?"
"To get ready for company that doesn't come and to have company come when she isn't ready."—Indianapolis Journal.

Feculating Trainmen.
Santa Fe detectives, disguised as tramps, have found that its trainmen have been carrying passengers at greatly reduced rates on the company's California lines and pocketing the money.

Well Trained.
Knicker—That's a fine out of Speeder's.

Booker—Yes, when he lets it find its own way home, it stops right in front of a police station.—N. Y. Sun.

Forcing His Growth.
Uncle—My word, Teddy, you are growing fast!

"Yes, they water me too much. Why, I've got to take a bath every morning!"—Jester.

THAT TICKLING IN THE THROAT.

One minute after taking One Minute Cough Cure that tickling in the throat is gone. It acts in the throat, not the stomach. Harmless—good for children. A. L. Spofford, postmaster at Chester, Mich., says: "Our little girl was unconscious from strangulation during a sudden and terrible attack of croup. Three doses of One Minute Cough Cure half an hour apart speedily cured her. I cannot praise what it has done in our family." It always gives relief. Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

ARSENIC IN BEER.

Remarkable Case of Poisoning in England a Warning to Drinkers in This Country.

Two years ago an epidemic of what was thought to be acute rheumatism, but later proved to be neuritis, appeared in Lancashire and Yorkshire counties of England. The deaths which occurred attracted much attention, and the government appointed a commission of experts to determine the causes. It was finally traced to the beer used. The sulphuric acid used in the preparation of brewing sugar was made from pyrites, and this contained large quantities of arsenic. Several large firms which supplied the brewers with sulphuric acid and glucose were sued for damages, and eventually failed. Several analyses made by chemists of invert sugar, which was used by the brewers, were found to contain one and one-half grains to nine grains of arsenic per pound, principally of arsenious oxide. Per gallon of beer this amount varied from one and one-half to three grains. Before these facts were understood at least 10,000 people were complaining of symptoms which were treated as chronic alcoholism, cirrhosis of the liver, and neuritis. For a long time disturbances of the heart had been noticed, which were ascribed to alcohol. The malt which was used was dried by gas coke. This was found to contain arsenic, which was directly deposited in the malt. Coke was used for this purpose because of its cheapness. One of the large firms which had made brewing sugar from pyrites also manufactured a table syrup from the same substance, which contained equally large quantities of arsenic. Analysis showed one grain to the pound of syrup; the whole stock, amounting to nearly 100 tons of invert sugar and syrup from this source, was destroyed, and the firm became bankrupt. These developments have turned the attention of chemists in this country to the various beers on the market, which are found generally dangerous, although they do not contain the same quantity of poison. The failure of such a large number of English brewers has startled the trade in this country, and extraordinary care is being used to prevent poisons from appearing in the beers.—Journal of Inebriety.

DIDN'T USE THE WINE.

How the Crew of "Discovery" Spoiled the Advertisement of Champagne House.

The French firm which got the concession for furnishing the antarctic vessel, the Discovery, before she set out on her trip to the southward, has been greatly shagreened by an incident that has just occurred in London, where the boat is being overhauled.

The firm in question advertised broadly throughout Europe that the good health and good spirits of the crew on their long trip and throughout their trials without money were due to the champagne with which they were furnished.

The unique kind of publicity this gave the brand in question was paying the firm many times over what it cost when suddenly the owners of the boat made the announcement that none of the champagne had even been opened, and that anyone who wanted to make a bid on it could do so at a certain time and place.

The firm itself could think then of nothing better than to buy in the stock itself, and, placing several cases of it in its window in Paris, to mark it:

"This is the medicine which the Discovery took along with it on its voyage."



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